Durant still the Riders' man

The quarterback will be starting against Calgary on Saturday, says coach Corey Chamblin PAGE 2

THE UNLIKELY LEADING MAN

JOSEPH GORDON-LEVITT'S STAR RISES WITH EACH 'FORMIDABLY SURPRISING' PERFORMANCE PAGE 8

REGIONAL metro®

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Layton's legacy lives on in the land of living skies

Remembering Jack. Saskatchewanians reflect fondly on the former NDP leader's far-reaching impact

ROB BROWN
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One year after his death, Jack Layton's legacy of hope and optimism is alive and well in Saskatchewan.

"He was able to find success as a leader almost everywhere in Canada," says Regina commuter Bill Pierce.

The former leader of the New Democratic Party died of cancer at the age of 61, one year ago today. His ability to cross party lines and gain respect from both supporters and rivals across the House of Commons is still recognized by Saskatchewanians today.

"He obviously was an example of a courageous politician," says Matthew Neufeld, walking in downtown Saskatoon. "He conducted an election campaign while seriously ill and he was a principled person."

"Jack was clearly a builder," said Saskatchewan New Democrat Leader John Nilson.

"He looked at the positive aspect of politics and realized people would respond."

Nilson says Layton took a special interest in the province.

"He said Saskatchewan had a crucial role in the NDP — to contribute to the building of the party.

"He was the kind of guy who could pick up and continue a conversation he was having with somebody years previous. That is a great trait for anyone."

Prior to his death, Layton led the NDP to a record 103 seats in the House, transforming the third-place party into Canada's official opposition.

WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

Jack Layton, then the New Democratic Party leader, and wife Olivia Chow celebrate their victories at NDP headquarters in Toronto on May 2, 2011. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS A new headstone (inset) and bust is shown Tuesday in Toronto, where Jack Layton's ashes will be spread by family on the one-year anniversary of his death. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWS 1

Durant stays at the helm

Coach has confidence.
'I told (Darian) that he is still our quarterback and we are still going to stay with him,' Chamblin says

JEFF MACKEY
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The Riders were back at Mosaic Stadium on Tuesday for the team's first practice since their fourth straight loss on Sunday.

After practice, head coach Corey Chamblin offered up some insight into the type of team the Riders will field against the Calgary Stampeders on Saturday.

Chamblin told media that quarterback Darian Durant still has the confidence of the Riders coaching staff and will be starting against Calgary.

"I had Darian in this morning and I told him that he is still our quarterback and we are still going to stay with him," said Chamblin. "I don't see anything that needs to be tweaked right now as far as Darian's play, a lot of (errors) might be a misread between him and the receiver."

Injury update

- At Tuesday's practice there was also news that Abraham Kromah's injury means he will not be playing against Calgary.
- "It is an ankle injury at this point, I don't know the extent of it but he will miss this week, I know that for sure," head coach Corey Chamblin said.

"I think the thing we need to do is get our playmakers more involved and get them more touches — seven (Weston Dressler) especially," said Durant. "If you look at the games we do win, (Dressler) has been heavily involved, we just need to get back to the basics."

Durant also hinted that he might be running the ball a bit more against Calgary. "I have to start using my legs a little more and my number needs to be called a bit more for running," Durant said.

Follow Jeff Mackey on Twitter @MetroJeffMackey

Saskatchewan Roughriders head coach Corey Chamblin at practice on Aug. 13. ROB BROWN/METRO

Regina Downtown Neighbourhood Plan adopted

Mike Ewen with The Frank Cart slings some street meat in Victoria Park. A downtown development plan three years in the making aims to improve the core, turning it into a pedestrian-friendly community hub. ROB BROWN/METRO

A downtown development plan three years in the making has been approved by Regina city council.

"We want a more livable, pedestrian-friendly and attractive downtown," said Coun. Michael Fougere. "This report is the culmination of that

The goal of the Regina Downtown Neighbourhood Plan, unanimously approved by council, is to turn the core into a community hub with a wide range of both housing and business development.

Judith Veresuk, executive director with Regina's Downtown Business Improvement District, said the plan's completion was timely. She said over the last three years, as the plan developed, people living and working downtown are beginning to see its value.

Last year, City Square Plaza redevelopment work was completed adjacent to Victoria Park.

"We had a tremendous amount of engagement. We wanted to update it for a long time, and the existing plan was 20 years old," said Fourgere, calling the plan's adoption one of the biggest steps forward made by council this term.

Mayor Pat Fiacco said he doesn't anticipate the same kind of stalling that there was with the City of Regina's Official Community Plan (OCP), which will be the city's blueprint for growth over the next 25 years.

The OCP plan is expected to be completed next year.

"I don't expect the delays of the OCP plan. We have timelines for that plan and know when the province wants it," said Fiacco.

ROB BROWN/METRO

Estevan

Missing man found dead

Estevan RCMP have found the body of a man reported missing on Sunday. Derek Olson, 32, hadn't been heard from since Aug. 10.

The RCMP issued a release on Monday asking for the public's assistance in finding Olson, and his body was discovered that afternoon. The RCMP do not suspect foul play, and are continuing to investigate. METRO

U of S

Semen affects female brain, say researchers

A team of international researchers, led by the University of Saskatchewan's Gregg Adams, has unlocked the mystery of a protein in semen that can affect the female brain, thus prompting ovulation.

"The idea that a substance in mammalian semen has a direct effect on the female brain is a new one," said Adams, a professor of veterinary biomedical sciences at U of S.

"This latest finding broadens our understanding of the mechanisms that regulate ovulation."

Adams said that the discovery will help researchers better understand and respond to issues surrounding fertility. METRO

Revenue sharing

Saskatchewan cities launch ads to thank province

The organization that represents cities in Saskatchewan has launched an ad campaign to show its gratitude to the provincial government.

The Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association says the four-week campaign was created to thank the province for funding under the municipal revenue-sharing program.

The provincial government currently shares 20 per cent of the provincial sales tax with municipal governments, which will be $237,253,882 for 2012-2013.

CKOM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile news

Can the first 14 billion years of the universe be condensed into a less-than-two-minute video? Scan the code to see it for yourself.

Turkey

Girl dies of wounds in bomb attack

A 12-year-old girl became the ninth victim Tuesday of a bomb blast in Turkey's southeast, which has highlighted fears that Kurdish rebels seeking self-rule are becoming emboldened by moves toward autonomy by the Kurdish minority in war-torn Syria. Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay said the girl had died of her wounds and that three other children were among those killed when a bomb concealed in a vehicle exploded Monday night near the Syrian border, where refugees are sheltering in camps. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France

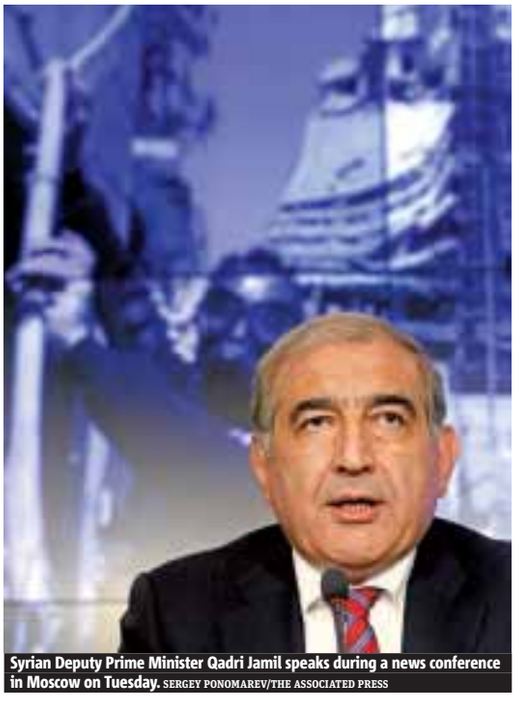
Floor plans to presidential palace stolen

The French government says thieves who broke into a vehicle at a Paris train station made off with a USB drive and discs containing floor plans for the French presidential palace, the main security agency and the Paris police department.

The Interior Ministry said Tuesday that the stolen documents weren't classified and that their disappearance put no one in danger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian minister warns against U.S. intervention



Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil speaks during a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday. SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war. Qadri Jamil called Obama's warning over use of chemical weapons 'propagandistic threats'

President Barack Obama's warning over chemical weapons in Syria indicates the West is looking for a pretext for military intervention, a senior Syrian government official said Tuesday following talks in Moscow.

Syrian Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil warned against any such intervention.

"Those who are contemplating this evidently want to see the crisis expand beyond Syria's borders," he told journalists in comments translated into Russian. The Syrian civil war, which began with a popular uprising in March 2011, is already spilling into neighbouring Lebanon.

Obama said Monday the U.S. would reconsider its opposition to military involvement in Syria if President Bashar Assad's regime deployed or used chemical or biological weapons.

Jamil described Obama's statements as "propagandistic threats" connected with the U.S. presidential election. However, he also said they indicate that "the West is looking for a pretext to intervene militarily," adding, "we must say that such intervention is impossible."

Russia, which along with China has steadfastly backed Syria and blocked UN sanctions on Assad's regime, earlier warned Syria against using chemical and biological weapons. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Negotiations

Jamil said the government would be willing to discuss Assad's resignation but only after the opposition agreed to join in negotiating a peaceful settlement.

- "Making his resignation a condition for dialogue effectively makes holding such a dialogue impossible," Jamil said. "During the negotiating process any issues can be discussed, and we are ready to discuss even this issue."

Delaware. Daycare workers allegedly formed toddler fightclub

A child care centre in Delaware has had its business licence suspended after police arrested three employees who allegedly encouraged toddlers to fight.

The arrests were made Monday after police discovered a cellphone video of three women working at the Hands of Our Future daycare in Dover, the state capital, allegedly encouraging two three-year-olds to duke it out.

"He's pinching me," yells one child in the video.

"No pinching, only punching," is a worker's response, according to the Dover Police.

"It was a difficult video to watch," Dover Police Capt. Tim Stump told FoxNews.com. "One of the kids involved ran over to one of the adults for protection, but she turned him around back into the fight."

Tiana Harris, 21, Estefania Myers, 21 and Lisa Parker, 47, have been charged with multiple counts of assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

"It's very disturbing to think anything like that could go on," said Amy Bickerling, whose four-year-old son is enrolled at the centre, to Delawareonline.com.

"I know these teachers. I go on all the field trips. I've never seen anything irregular," she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Air Canada

Flight diverted for unruly passenger

An Air Canada flight en route to Calgary from London, England, had to be diverted due to an unruly passenger.

Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick says police boarded flight 851 in Edmonton on Monday afternoon and removed a male passenger.

Mounties say a drunk man allegedly assaulted a female crew member and another passenger, and did some minor damage to the Boeing 777. There were 349 passengers and 11 crew onboard, and police say they subdued the man before the plane landed in Edmonton.

Thirty-five-year-old Justin Frank of Calgary is facing several charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Storms, jellyfish stings end 63-year-old's attempt to swim across Florida Straits

Diana Nyad ended her fourth attempt in nearly 35 years to swim across the Straits of Florida on Tuesday, her dream of setting a record thwarted by storms, jellyfish stings, shark threats, hypothermia and swollen lips.

In a blog posting, crew member Candace Hogan wrote that Nyad angrily shook her head after being pulled from the water and planned to return to finish the swim after the storms subsided.

"When can I get back in?" Hogan quoted the swimmer as saying. "I want full transparency that I was out. But I have plenty left in me and I want to go on."

She was aboard a boat headed to the Florida Keys and was likely to arrive Tuesday afternoon.

Nyad, who turns 63 on Wednesday, was making her third attempt since last summer to become the first person to cross the Florida Straits without a shark cage. She also made a failed try with a cage in 1978.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Endurance swimmer Diana Nyad rests after being pulled out of the water between Cuba and the Florida Keys early Tuesday.
DIANA NYAD/THE FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kroeger proposed

Avril's singing a love song

It's a new Canadian musical power couple: People magazine is reporting that pop star Avril Lavigne and Nickelback frontman Chad Kroeger are engaged.

Lavigne, 27, and Kroeger, 37, first got together in February to co-write a song for Lavigne's upcoming fifth studio album, People reports. Now after a six-month relationship, they are planning to get married, a Lavigne aide said.

On Aug. 8, Kroeger reportedly presented Lavigne with a 14-carat diamond ring. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1,394 complaints

Election scandal may be widening

Complaints about fraudulent or misleading telephone calls in last year's federal election have almost doubled, say court documents filed by election officials.

By mid-August, Elections Canada had received 1,394 complaints "alleging specific occurrences" in 234 of 308 ridings, a lawyer says. The investigation has centred on Guelph, Ont., where residents say they received automated phone calls directing them to a wrong polling station. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$60,000 tab

Toronto mayor insists: No driver

Toronto's mayor, who raised eyebrows when he was spotted reading behind the wheel, says he won't be getting a personal driver.

The expense of a chauffeur would be a "waste of taxpayers' money," Rob Ford told reporters.

He said a private driver would add up to $60,000 to the municipal tab.

Ford has said he uses his morning commute to keep pace with his busy work schedule. He has also come under fire for using his cellphone while driving. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lighthouse gets a facelift

Workers strip paint from Nova Scotia's iconic lighthouse at Peggy's Cove on Tuesday. The repainting project will take about two weeks. The lighthouse is said to be one of the most photographed structures in Atlantic Canada. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

Revealed: Tragic victim of a shocking homicide

Body parts horror. 'Nice and quiet' Guang Hua Liu was a single mother of three and owned a holistic spa in east Toronto

A police officer holds a photo of victim Guang Hua Liu. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Body parts found scattered in Toronto-area waterways belonged to a single mother of three, police say.

Guang Hua Liu, 41, was last seen by friends late in the afternoon on Aug. 10 as they dropped her off at her recently defunct spa in east Toronto, Peel Regional Police said.

Friends reported her missing the next day and on Aug. 15 her right foot was found in the Credit River in Mississauga, about 45 kilometres west of where she lived in east-end Toronto.

Liu's head and hands were discovered in the river in the Hewick Meadows Park area.

Over the weekend, two calves, a thigh and an arm were found in West Highland Creek in east-end Toronto.

Forensic tests have determined all of those remains belonged to Liu, but police still do not know how she died.

One of her three children is an adult and the other two live with their father, Insp. George Koekkoek said.

Investigators are treating the case as a homicide, but they say they don't believe there are other victims.

"We're satisfied to this stage that there's no threat or danger to the public safety," Koekkoek said.

Koekkoek added: "We have no reason to believe that this is anything other than an isolated case."

Police investigators have executed several search warrants, but none of the searches turned up any more body parts, Koekkoek said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A spa called Forget Me Not

Liu was the owner of a holistic spa called Forget Me Not, said a woman with a Toronto firm that rented the space.

- **Monthly lease.** Liu signed a month-by-month agreement, the woman said, adding: "She was very nice and quiet."
- **A citizen.** Liu was a Canadian citizen, police said.

Rat crisis. Alberta city may need a Pied Piper

The rat population found in a landfill in Medicine Hat, Alta., appears to be spreading to cushier digs.

Bylaw superintendent Fred Crittenden says the rodents are being discovered in residential areas.

All appear to be the same species as the more than 80 Norway rats that have been found in the dump since earlier this month.

Crittenden said traps will be put up around the city.

"Our pest control company is setting up bait stations at various locations," he said.

"Those are going to be checked on a regular basis to see what kind of activity we're having on them." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swine flu. Keep pigs away from fairs, expert says

Swine flu spreads from pigs to people. And fairs may be to blame, a U.S. expert says. KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's been found in pigs and/or people in more than 10 U.S. states and counting.

In less than a month, more than 200 people — most young children — have been infected by an unwanted visitor to many of the state and county fairs held at this time of year.

A new swine flu virus is infecting a growing number of people in the United States.

And flu expert Michael Osterholm says it's time to tell fair organizers that pigs should stay home from the fair.

"I'm convinced that wherever you have pigs and fairs right now you're seeing this transmission," said Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Diseases Research and Policy. "These pigs shouldn't be at the fairs." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politician censured over rape remark in defence of Assange

Britain. WikiLeaks founder was accused of sex offences during a trip to Sweden in 2010

A British lawmaker was chastised by the leader of his own political party Tuesday over his claim that the sex acts WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is alleged to have committed do not constitute rape.

George Galloway, a leftist political outsider who represents the anti-war Respect party, attempted to defend Assange in a video blog posted Sunday, saying that accusations against him showed "bad sexual etiquette, but whatever else it is, it is not rape."

Assange has fought for two years to avoid extradition to Sweden to be questioned over allegations of sexual molestation, unlawful coercion and rape made by two women. For the last two months, he has been hiding out in Ecuador's Embassy in London, where he is out of reach of British authorities.

A placard of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is seen outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London on Tuesday. ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Even taken at its worst, if the allegations made by these two women were true, 100 per cent true, and even if a camera in the room captured them, they don't constitute rape. At least not rape as anyone with any sense can possibly recognize it," Galloway said in the video. "It might be really sordid and bad sexual etiquette, but whatever else it is, it is not rape or you bankrupt the term rape of all meaning."

Salma Yaqoob, leader of the Respect Party, said Galloway's remarks on "what constitutes rape are deeply disappointing and wrong."

One woman accuses Assange of intentionally damaging a condom during sex. A second woman claims he had sex with her while she was asleep, which can be considered rape under Swedish law.

In a statement Tuesday, Galloway defended his remarks and insisted that Assange's actions would not constitute rape in Britain. However, British courts have rejected that claim in Assange's appeal hearings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Siberia

Woman accused of murder by bra

Russian investigators say a woman in East Siberia has strangled an elderly neighbour to death with her bra.

Investigators say the woman, 26, from the town of Zakamensk, was drunk in July when she and her boyfriend called on their neighbour, 65, for money to buy drinks. Angry that he refused to lend them money, the woman took off her bra and strangled him with it, they say.

The woman's name was not released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anonymous

Pro-Pussy Riot hackers attack court website

Hackers have attacked the website of a Moscow court where three members of the Pussy Riot punk band were tried and sentenced to two years in jail.

The Russian offshoot of the loose-knit movement known as Anonymous tweeted that the website of the Khamovniki district court was down Tuesday.

According to search engines' cached pages, the hackers posted Pussy Riot's latest song ridiculing President Vladimir Putin on the site. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rabbi wades into debate

Yona Metzger, Ashkenazi chief rabbi of Israel, briefs the media at the Federal Press Conference organization in Berlin on Tuesday. Metzger is in Germany for talks aimed at smoothing over controversy over the legality of circumcising young boys. German lawmakers have called for the government to draft a law this fall explicitly permitting "medically correct circumcision." That call came after a Cologne court concluded in June that circumcision amounts to bodily harm. MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Akin renews vow to stay in race amid rape controversy

A defiant Todd Akin dismissed pleas from top Republicans to abandon his besieged U.S. Senate campaign Tuesday, saying party leaders including presumptive presidential nominee Mitt Romney were overreacting to his comments that women's bodies can prevent pregnancies in cases of "legitimate rape."

Akin, who has been frantically trying to salvage his once-promising bid against incumbent Democrat Claire McCaskill in Missouri, said the uproar surrounding the remarks was out of proportion with his mistake — misspeaking "one word in one sentence on one day."

"I hadn't done anything morally or ethically wrong, as sometimes people in politics do," Akin said on a radio show Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stock. Facebook closes lower, erasing Monday's gains after Thiel sale

Facebook's battered stock closed lower Tuesday, erasing some of the gains it saw a day earlier.

Regulatory filings revealed Monday after the stock market closed that Peter Thiel, Facebook's first big investor, shed most of his holdings in the social networking icon.

Thiel is also a board member.

Thiel originally invested $500,000 in Facebook in 2004. He sold 16.8 million shares in the company's May 18 IPO and another 20 million or so late last week after a lockup period banning the sales expired. In all, he's reaped more than $1 billion from the sales.

On Monday, Facebook's shares hit a new low of $18.75 before bouncing back to $20.01 by the time the market closed. But Tuesday saw the stock dip 85 cents, 4.3 per cent, to close at $19.16.

PayPal founder and Facebook investor Peter Thiel. GETTY IMAGES

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deal. Soros takes stake in soccer club Man United

Billionaire financier George Soros is getting in on the game, taking a minority stake in soccer club Manchester United.

Soros disclosed in a regulatory filing on Monday that he owns 7.85 per cent of Manchester United's Class A shares.

The filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission was made by Soros' hedge fund, Soros Fund Management LLC.

The 134-year-old English Premier League soccer club went public on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this month.

While Manchester United has rabid fan support, it did not receive as hearty of a welcome on the public stock market.

Its debut over a week ago was considered disappointing, with enthusiasm for the celebrated team overshadowed by its debt load and financial track record.

Manchester United carried $666.2 million US in debt as of March 31. It had no debt when it was bought by the Glazer family in 2005.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mowing down the competition with robotics

Honda Motor Co.'s Asimo robot, which walks and talks, shows off the company's new Miimo lawn mower. Honda is releasing its first product for the home, a sensor-equipped lawn mower packed with its prized robotics technology. Miimo goes on sale next year, retailing for around $3,000 — but only in Europe. The machine, which looks a bit like iRobot's Roomba vacuum cleaner, continuously shaves about three millimetres off the grass, manoeuvring itself on sloped areas. HONDA MOTOR CO./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian nickel firm snagged in Cuban corruption probe

Mining. Government officials and workers from joint Cuban-Canadian venture convicted in contract-expansion case

A Cuban court has convicted a dozen people of corruption, including high-ranking government officials, an executive at a state-run nickel company and workers from a project operating under a Cuban-Canadian joint concern, official media announced Tuesday.

In a case involving a contract for the expansion of the Pedro Soto Alba nickel and cobalt processing plant at the Moa mine, the sentences range from four to 12 years, the Communist Party newspaper Granma reported.

The court in the eastern province of Holguin took into account "the gravity of these acts and their harmful consequences in one of the strategic activities for the nation's economy, and the conduct of the accused, characterized by the loss of ethical values and deception," the bulletin read.

The announcement was the first official confirmation of a probe that since last year has been the source of rumour and private discussion by diplomats on the island, part of a crackdown on graft that has caught up several foreigners and sent a chill through the small foreign business community.

The Moa Joint Venture that controls the mining operation is operated in tandem by Cuba and Toronto-based mining company Sherritt International Corp.

Moa currently produces 37,000 tons of nickel and cobalt per year, according to Sherritt's website.

Nickel production is one of Cuba's main sources of foreign income, along with tourism. In April, a senior government official said the mineral accounted for 30 per cent of exports in 2011, which would put nickel revenues at $1.8 billion for the year based on recently released overall export figures.

Valuable resource

$1.8B

Nickel revenues in Cuba are likely around $1.8 billion US for the year, based on recently released overall export figures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Management

RIM appoints new U.K. exec

Research In Motion has made another change in its leadership, appointing a new managing director of its U.K. & Ireland business as it readies the launch of the BlackBerry 10.

The company said Tuesday that Rob Orr would step into the key role starting Sept. 1. Orr has worked at RIM for more than six years, focused on global product management.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.04¢ US (-0.13¢)

TSX 12,116.92 (+40.89)

OIL $96.68 US (+71¢)

GOLD $1,642.90 US (+19.90)

Natural gas: $2.775 US (No change)
Dow Jones: 13,203.58 (-68.06)

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Higher duty-free exemptions lure Canadian shoppers

Higher duty-free exemptions for cross-border shoppers helped attract Canadians stateside in record numbers in June, analysts and retail groups said Tuesday as Statistics Canada reported 1.9 million overnight trips to the U.S. that month.

Paul Ferley, an economist at RBC, said the new exemptions — which let those on an overnight trip to the U.S. declare $200 worth of purchased goods, up from $50 — combined with a strong Canadian dollar have upped the incentives to shop south of the border.

"There was concern with the higher exemptions that it could prompt increased shopping trips into the U.S.," said Ferley. "Certainly the recent data suggests that's what played out."

A Statistics Canada report released Tuesday says overnight trips to the U.S. rose 7.5 per cent in June compared to May, to 1.9 million. That's the highest level since 1972, when the agency began keeping records on such cross-border jaunts.

Most overnight travel was by car, with Canadians taking more than 1.2 million trips — a 10 per cent increase month over month.

Canadians on a jaunt to the U.S. for two and seven days are now allowed to declare $800 worth of goods, up from $400, while the limit for visits of more than a week increased to $800 from $750.

While StatsCan didn't specifically attribute the spike in visits to the new duty-free rules, the agency did note the two events coincided. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TWO TINY, BEAUTIFUL BOOKS

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

Every once in a while, something, or someone wonderful comes this way.

In my case, that would be Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild, the New York Times bestseller that prompted Oprah to relaunch her book club.

Wild is a tour de force, a searing, soaring account of the author's 1,100-mile trek across the Pacific Crest Trail back in the '90s, when she was recovering from the death of her mother, a broken marriage and, oh, a heroin addiction.

If you have time left to add one to your summer reading list, I'd recommend Wild.

If Wild was the only reason to celebrate Cheryl Strayed's gifts as a writer, that would be enough. But there's more. She is also the heart, mind and soul behind Dear Sugar, the greatest advice column ever. Dear Sugar is a regular feature of therumpus.net, an online culture magazine. Strayed revealed that she was the writer behind Dear Sugar in February, and in July, Tiny Beautiful Things, a collection of her best advice, was published.

So far, it has spent its entire published existence on the New York Times bestseller list.

I'm recommending that you read Wild but I'm pleading with you to read Tiny Beautiful Things. It should be required reading for every struggling soul on the planet, and as far as I know, that's all of us.

Here's a sample. It's in response to an advice-seeker who is jealous of the success of fellow authors, especially those who score six-figure deals with their publishers. I can relate to that. Cheryl's diagnosis: "Could it be possible that the reason you feel like you swallowed a spoonful of battery acid every time someone gets what you want is because a long time ago — way back in your own very beginnings — you were sold a bill of goods about the relationship between money and success, fame and authenticity, legitimacy and adulation?"

Oh.

And here's her antidote: "But the people who don't give up … they've taken into their hearts the idea that there is enough for all of us, that success will manifest itself in different ways for different sorts of artists, that keeping the faith is more important than cashing the cheque, that being genuinely happy for someone else who got something you hope to get makes you genuinely happier too."

Wish I'd said that, especially the part about keeping the faith is more important than cashing the cheque.

But I'm not jealous, because Cheryl gives way more than she gets. And despite her (almost) overnight fame, she still turns up at readings for free and tutors aspiring writers, although, now that Reese Witherspoon has optioned Wild for some fabulous amount, it will be interesting to see if she can keep her feet on the ground.

Of course, she's pre-grounded. Trekking 1,100 miles through the Sierra Mountains lugging a 60-pound pack and wearing shoes that are too tight will do that to you.

Cheryl Strayed, author of Wild, the New York Times bestseller.
JONI KABANA/SUBMITTED

Knitting is child's play

NETPLAYWORKS/MASAKI KOIZUMI/REX FEATURES

Playful performance

Kids' playground knitted by artist

This crochet playground at the Takino Suzuran Hillside National Park in Sapporo, Japan, is made from thousands of pieces of nylon, created by hand over several months with a ton of yarn.

This is the brainchild of Japanese-born Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam and her Canadian husband, Charles MacAdam.
METRO

Artist's view

"We love how popular the playgrounds are. Sports are good for some people, but not every child. They should use their bodies and have fun."

Japanese-born artist
Toshiko Horiuchi MacAdam

Origins of artwork

Kids climb, play and make art their own

After teaching textiles in the U.S. in the 1960s, Toshiko began exhibiting crochet art for museums. But when two children started playing on one of her pieces at a gallery in Japan, blissfully unaware of artwork etiquette, she watched nervously as they climbed into the structure, but was thrilled to find that her work suddenly came alive in ways she had never really anticipated. **METRO**

Guerrilla knit-wear

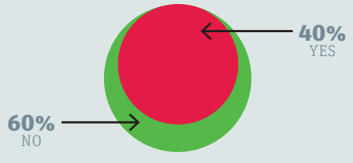
Today, crochet art goes like a bomb

Yarnbombing — covering objects in public spaces with knitted, crocheted material — has surged as a form of counter-culture art in recent years. Guerrilla artists worldwide boldly adorn famous urban structures and monuments with wool and now have their own International Yarnbombing Day, celebrated in June. **METRO**

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Does a new study saying egg yolks are almost as artery-clogging as smoking deter you from eating them?



Twitter

@Feztickle75:
I feel like writing a song about how I've completely stopped taking advice from baby boomers, after having admired them for so long #skpoli

@Michaelsign10:
Sometimes ya wish you had a pingpong paddle in your back pocket to smack the dummy on top of the head. #stupid #people #idiots #yqr

@podmartin:
Another gorgeous Saskatchewan day in beautiful Regina. Blessed to live here #yqr #riders

@evankimick:
Hands down one of the most solid trips of any summer..swimming, deal and Ukrainian food #yqr #spoiled

@EduKateion:
Whelp. Been here for a week, and I've discovered I still don't like the place. #yqr

metro

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SCENE 2

Celebrity reading room

Oscar-winning thespian Emma Thompson has revived Beatrix Potter's mischievous bunny. The Further Tale of Peter Rabbit, published 110 years after Peter's first adventure, is out in September. Thompson is the latest in a lengthy line of stars who have hopped on the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed celeb children's lit bandwagon.

MIKE DOJC
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Jay Leno: If Roast Beef Could Fly

The comedian churns a childhood memory into a breezy bedtime yarn that may leave tots salivating in their sleep over a giant hunk of juicy rotisserie meat. Leno's father is ready for his next project — a new patio, so they can throw an epic barbecue. The titular event occurs when Jay, mesmerized by the tasty revolving beef, jabs his plastic comb into it in a clumsy attempt to sneak a sample of the meat before mealtime. Jay's plan backfires when his comb gets stuck and melts. Papa Leno is forced to chuck the spoiled roast beef out the window to the delight of the dog. **Flavour:** "My Dad's side of the family is Italian. Every Sunday we have 400 pounds of meatballs, half a ton of spaghetti, a swimming pool's worth of sauce!"

Jimmy Buffet and Savannah Buffet: The Jolly Mon

The Cheeseburger in Paradise crooner teamed up with his daughter on this laid-back escapist odyssey. Based on the beach balladeer's ditty Jolly Mon Sing, the dreadlock-rocking protagonist is a singing fisherman from the fictional Caribbean island of Bananaland. He finds an enchanted guitar floating in the bay that comes with instructions to play music around the world. Along the way the hero encounters a nefarious band of pirates led by One-Eyed Rosy and a groovy dolphin who saves his life. The father-daughter tandem also authored Trouble Dolls, another folklore-filled romp. **Flavour:** "The Jolly Mon had never played a guitar before, but the moment his fingers touched the strings, he knew how to play."

Julianne Moore: Freckleface Strawberry

Teased for her dotted complexion, Freckleface Strawberry, a nickname the famous redhead herself was bullied with as a child, tries all sorts of ways to hide her freckles — from soap and makeup to more drastic measures. It's an inspiring modern take on The Ugly Duckling plotline, only instead of transforming into a swan, she learns to accept and love the skin she's in. Sequels Freckleface Strawberry and the Dodgeball Bully and Freckleface Strawberry: Best Friends Forever keep the life lessons flowing. The series was also adapted into a theatrical production, Freckleface the Musical. **Flavour:** "You have to meet the new girl. She wears a ski mask all the time."

Molly Shannon: Tilly the Trickster

The SNL alum's latest character is a squirrely little prankster, and everybody in her life, from family members and school chums to her teacher, are targets. Her sly antics continue unabated until the folks she plays tricks on the most often wise up and Tilly gets a taste of her own medicine. While filling cookies with toothpaste may not be as zany as Shannon's pratfalls as Mary Katherine Gallagher, four year olds seem to laugh just as hard. **Flavour:** "First, I grab a paper cup from the cupboard. Then I carefully poke a hole in the side of the cup with a pencil. If this ever-so-clever trick works, water will spill through the hole when Daddy tips the cup to take a drink."

Madonna: The English Roses

The first of Madge's kiddy tomes centres around a group of fashionable London schoolgirls who exclude a classmate from their sleepovers and other soirees — they are jealous of how pretty and perfect she seems. When a fairy Godmother gives the gals a glimpse into the ostracized girl's world they discover that her mother passed away and she does all the household chores. The Roses realize their folly and bring her into their circle of friends. Madonna's total transformation from material girl to moralizing momma is evident in her growing collection of lesson-laden storybooks. **Flavour:** "It all sounds so perfectly fun and nice. And in many ways, it was. But there was only one problem. They were all a little bit jealous of another girl in the neighbourhood."

Hollywood's unlikely go-to guy

Joseph Gordon-Levitt. This rising star has yet to settle into an easily defined persona

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In Hollywood careers are built on images. While actors complain about being pigeon-holed, for many being synonymous with a genre has been the cornerstone of their careers.

Then there's Joseph Gordon-Levitt. He's quickly becoming one of Hollywood's go-to guys even though he has yet to settle into an easily defined persona.

He's been acting since age four, but the first time most of us saw him he was playing an ancient alien trapped in an adolescent's body on the sitcom Third Rock from the Sun. He left the show after six years and for a time made the kind of films you would expect a young sitcom star to make: 10 Things I Hate About You and the animated Treasure Planet.

Then things got interesting.

After a short break from the screen to study at Columbia University he vowed to "only make good films." What followed is an eclectic IMDB listing that includes everything from low-budget movies like Manic, to indie comedy 500 Days of Summer, to his blockbuster work with Christopher Nolan in Inception and The Dark Knight Rises.

In Mysterious Skin he wore blue contact lenses to play a child-abuse victim turned hustler. Roger Ebert wrote, "This is not an easy movie." And the Guardian called it a "disorienting hallucination of a film." Both praised his performance.

The Lookout sees him playing a man with a head injury: "The hardest thing I've ever done in my life," he said. While in Killshot, he's a wannabe assassin opposite Mickey Rourke.

It's these off-the-wall choices, mixed with more mainstream fare, that prompted the Philadelphia Inquirer to describe Gordon-Levitt as a "surprisingly formidable, and formidably surprising, leading man."

Joseph Gordon-Levitt. SUBMITTED

On the web

Taylor Swift to perform at VMAs, Fierce 5 U.S. Olympic gymnasts to present at awards show

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Ryan Lochte to hand out roses?

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
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With four years until he's due in Rio, Olympic swimmer Ryan Lochte is scoping out a side job in reality TV.

At the top of the list is The Bachelor, whose producers have been informed that they'll need to come up with at least $750,000 for such high-quality abs.

But even if they pay, Lochte may pass.

"Ryan is acutely aware that he has to attach himself to the right projects and endorsements that won't do damage to his all-American image," a source tells RadarOnline.

"As much as he'd like to do it, Ryan does have some reservations about The Bachelor because he wouldn't have any control on how he is portrayed on the show."

Ryan, at this point there's nothing more American than compromising your reputation, marriage and career in the name of fleeting fame. Consider this our blessing.

Nicki Minaj

American Idol targeting new judges

Time is running out for American Idol to fill up the judges' table for its 12th season, and producers are reportedly circling a couple of options for new talent. According to the Associated Press, "a deal is in the works" for singer Nicki Minaj to come on-board, joining Mariah Carey, who was added to the lineup last month. And a source tells People magazine that Enrique Iglesias is also in talks to join the reality singing competition. "Idol has expressed a lot of interest, but no final word on either side yet," the source says.

Rumours of Tony Scott illness not true: Family

It appears there's no truth to the reports that director Tony Scott had been diagnosed with inoperable brain cancer before he decided to jump to his death from a bridge over Los Angeles Harbor Sunday. "According to family spokespersons, the information concerning brain cancer or an inoperable brain tumor in Mr. Scott is incorrect," a spokesman for the L.A. coroner's office tells People magazine. The initial report of a cancer diagnosis came from ABC News, citing an anonymous source.

Tony Scott

Rosie O'Donnell

Rosie 'saved by a TV commercial'

Rosie O'Donnell is recuperating after suffering a heart attack late last week. The TV personality revealed on her blog that she was "saved by a TV commercial" that prompted her to take aspirin when she noticed symptoms that suggested a heart attack.

"She is now home and resting comfortably. She is very, very lucky," her rep tells People magazine.

Liberty Ross and Rupert Sanders

Liberty Ross spreads wings in blog post

Rupert Sanders' wife, Liberty Ross, is trying to send a message with her latest blog post for Vogue UK, but it's not entirely clear what that message is. Ross — who hasn't updated the blog since news broke of Sanders' affair with actress Kristen Stewart — published an image of an eagle with its wings spread under the title "Liberty," prompting many to speculate she's leaving Sanders. New York magazine insists the image "is meant to be a statement of freedom and independence," and commenters on Ross' blog seem to be taking it that way as well.

Twitter

@RedHourBen
Tony Scott made so many movies that influenced so many others. A genre to himself. A real loss. He entertained so many people.

@DebbieReynolds1
The world is a sadder place for all of us who love to laugh. I love Phyllis Diller. Comedy will never be the same and neither will I.

@JohnStamos
hate it when my stand-in is younger and better looking than me.

@Joan_Rivers
Hand specialists say one of the most common ailments they treat is "texting thumb." In showbiz it has to be "flipping-off middle finger."

LIFE

5 travel personalities

Planning a vacation is exciting, and made even more thrilling when you're going with someone special. Except it doesn't always work out perfectly. When it comes to packing and jumping on a plane, everyone has their own travel personality. Here's how to handle some of them.

MAE GIFFORD
life@metronews.ca

1 The over planner

You're in Paris and they're intent on touring the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and Eiffel Tower by noon on the first day. Keep up at this panicked rate and you're bound to see the entire City of Lights in record time, but won't remember any of it. Suggest one afternoon of people watching in a public square over a carafe of French wine. Their shoulders will drop in no time.

2 The person who hates travelling

They haven't travelled in years but somehow you convinced them to come on your dream cruise. Big mistake. They hate sleeping in a strange bed, new scenery, food, water and boats. Instead of throwing them overboard, try to compromise on activities you'll both enjoy. Joining them in the casino for a few hours (gag!) may translate into you getting the most out of your trip with fewer complaints.

3 The embarrassing keener

Armed with their Lonely Planet guidebook, which they studied for months, this friend will regurgitate every iota of information they know at each attraction you visit. Even better, they're hell-bent on speaking the language, which typically includes them shout-sputtering random words at locals. Nip this annoying behaviour in the bud by suggesting they'll get much more out of the experience if they don't have their nose stuck in a book the entire time. If all else fails, accidentally "lose" it.

4 The obvious tourist

Money belt? Check. Canadian flag in plain sight so no one confuses you with an American? Check. Comfortable New Balance walking shoes and socks that reach mid-calf? Check. Canadian tourists stick out like sore thumbs and it's not just embarrassing, it can also put you at risk for pickpocketing or schemers. The simple rule is to dress on vacation like you normally would. But if your wardrobe includes any of the above items, you can't be helped.

5 The under planner

They had no opinion on which country to see and now that you've landed, they're just along for the ride. Instead of getting frustrated at their lackadaisical attitude toward travel, embrace it! This is your opportunity to design the trip you've always wanted without any complaining. This type of personality can be convinced to do anything, so be as busy or relaxed as you like. The best part is that they're going to love the trip because they had no expectations.

On the web

Fogo Island Inn and art gallery aim high with luxury rooms on the wild Atlantic.

Tiger shrimp, pesto and grilled corn: An unlikely — but tasty — salad trio

ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com

Tiger shrimp are quite affordable today compared to what they cost a few years ago. If you can't find them, you can use smaller shrimp. Using a spinach pesto is a good example of how you can use different ingredients to make variations on classic basil pesto. If you don't have fresh corn, sauté 2 cups canned or frozen corn until lightly charred.

1. Salad: Lightly coat cobs of corn with cooking spray and grill on barbecue 5 minutes or until charred, turning to avoid burning. Alternatively, bake corn in an oven preheated to 450 F for 5 minutes, also turning to prevent burning. Let corn cool slightly and cut kernels off cob with sharp knife. Place in a bowl along with red pepper, red onion, garlic, jalapeño, cider vinegar, olive oil, honey (if using), fresh basil, salt and pepper. Toss to combine.

Ingredients

- 1 lb large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 cup store-bought pesto

Salad

- 3 fresh cobs of corn
- 1/2 cup diced roasted red pepper (about 1 small roasted red pepper)
- 1/2 cup diced red onion
- 1 tsp chopped garlic
- 1 1/2 tsp chopped jalapeño pepper
- 1 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp honey (optional)
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
- pinch of salt and pepper

2. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet or grill pan with cooking spray and set over medium high heat. Add shrimp and sauté until just pink, about 3 minutes.

3. Place the corn salad on a serving plate, top with shrimp and garnish with pesto.

ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN

Tiger Shrimp with Pesto and Grilled Corn Salad

This recipe serves four. RYAN SZULC, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S FAMILY FAVORITES (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Drink of the Week

Coconut-Lemonade Slushies

Slushies are one of the tastiest ways to cool down during the summer. Here, the classic taste of lemonade meets the refreshing flavour of coconut.

- 3 cups lightly crushed ice
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sweetened cream of coconut
- 1/4 cup agave syrup or honey
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Pinch salt

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Purée until smooth. You may need to stop the blender once or twice and stir the ingredients in order to keep them moving in the blender. Serve immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRES

Nab some bucks between the books

Post-secondary profession. With these strategies, some gumption and a solid resumé, you can get started on your on-campus job search

CATHY KEATES
TalentEgg.ca

Most campuses have lots of student jobs available, but it isn't always easy figuring out how to find them.

While some jobs for the coming school year will have already been filled (some departments do their hiring in winter/spring of the previous year so that they are ready to go with new staff in September) there are usually still lots of jobs open in the fall.

In terms of where to look, most schools do not have one place where all the jobs are advertised.

So, it can take some legwork to look around to find what's available on your campus. And just like finding jobs anywhere, networking is key.

Here are some tips for helping you get job hunting on campus.

Visit your campus career centre

The career centre should be stop number one if you are looking for work on campus. Staff at the career centre are usually very knowledgeable about on campus work, and getting their advice first can save you lots of time with their leads and direction.

It's hard to believe, but not every opportunity can be found on the net. Look around and ask around you. ISTOCK

Find out about work/study programs

Many schools have part-time jobs on campus that are specifically designated for students who are in financial need. These are often called work/study programs, but may have a different name at your campus. To learn more, and to find out whether you qualify ('financial need' can be defined differently at different schools), ask staff at your career centre and/or student financial services or loan office.

Speak with professors and your department

Often professors need help with their work. Sometimes they have enough money to hire students (other times they may use volunteers). Check with your departmental staff and faculty members if you are interested in getting research-related experience.

Visit on-campus vendors

The restaurants, pubs, shops, and other retail outlets on campus all need staff. You can visit them and see if they are hiring.

Keep your eyes and ears open

Watch notice boards, let all your friends know you are looking and ask them if they have any contacts or leads, make sure you read the emails you might get from your department or student clubs — you never know what might turn up a job lead. The more people you speak with, the greater your chances of finding something.

CATHY KEATES IS A CAREER COUNSELLOR AND TRAINER WHO HAS WORKED AS A CAREER COUNSELLOR AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AND WAS THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF THE CAREER CENTRE AT YORK UNIVERSITY.

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SPORTS 4

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr speaks to reporters at the Delta Grand Hotel on Tuesday in Kelowna, B.C. GARY NYLANDER/THE CANADIAN PRESS/KELOWNA DAILY COURIER

Still looking for a 'jumping off point'

NHL. League, players' union to focus on core economic issues during this week's labour talks

Critical week

Talks are tentatively scheduled for the next two weeks in New York so there is plenty of room for continued dialogue if the parties can start getting on the same page in the coming days.

- The tone of this week's talks should offer a good indication of whether that will happen in time for a deal to be reached before Sept. 15.

Where do we go from here?

As the NHL and NHL Players' Association resume collective bargaining talks, that is the question they're both seeking to answer.

The sides stepped away from negotiations last week with competing bids on the table and no clear road ahead. They spoke again over the weekend and agreed to devote sessions Wednesday and Thursday entirely to core economic issues — the area where the parties seem to have the most ground to make up.

"We are hoping that our meetings this week can serve as a jumping off point for further discussion and negotiation over the critical economic and system issues that we need to resolve in order to reach an agreement," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Tuesday in an email.

Essentially, it's time to see how much each side is willing to move off its current position, if at all.

While a significant gap exists between the two proposals when it comes to the amount of money available to players, there is some common ground. The union's decision to keep a hard salary cap in place was an important step and its willingness to accept less than 57 per cent of revenues — for three years, anyway — seemed to indicate it was trying to work with the NHL.

"We thought it was a compromise," Donald Fehr, the NHLPA's executive director, told reporters last week.

Even though commissioner Gary Bettman offered a cold response to the union's offer it was a step in the right direction. Are the players willing to go even further? How far will the league move off its proposal, which called for new contract restrictions and player salaries based on 43 per cent of revenue?

The sides are operating in the shadow of a Sept. 15 deadline, when the current CBA is set to expire and the NHL has said players will be locked out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Injury bug nipping at Vick's heels

Michael Vick has required four medical tests and completed four passes in the Philadelphia Eagles' first two pre-season games.

That is an ominous sign for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Vick left Monday night's win at New England after injuring his ribs on his sixth play.

X-rays on Vick's ribs at the stadium were negative, and an MRI and CT scan on Tuesday revealed he has no broken bones or fractured cartilage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Vick takes a knee during Monday's game. GETTY IMAGES FILE

MLB

Jays' Lawrie back on shelf with abdominal pain

Toronto third baseman Brett Lawrie has stopped his rehab for a right oblique injury after feeling sore when he woke up on Tuesday.

Manager John Farrell said Lawrie, who has been on the disabled list since Aug. 4, isn't yet at a point where he might need to be shut down for the season.

Farrell also said right-hander Brandon Morrow, who hasn't pitched since June 11 because of a left oblique injury, likely will start Saturday at Baltimore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baseball. Clemens return stint already drawing interest from Astros

Roger Clemens thinks any talk about a return to the majors is premature.

The Houston Astros decided to check him out anyway.

General manager Jeff Luhnow said Tuesday the Astros sent a scout to look at Clemens and left-hander Scott Kazmir, who also plays for the Sugar Land Skeeters of the independent Atlantic League. Clemens is to make his first start on Saturday at home against Bridgeport.

Luhnow said he wasn't sure whether Clemens was trying to make it back to the big leagues or just wanted to keep doing something he was very good at for a long time. Clemens earned about $160 million and won 354 games in a 24-year career with the Red Sox, Blue Jays, Yankees and Astros, but hasn't pitched since 2007.

Roger Clemens in Sugar Land, Texas, on Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Players' union head expected to stay on job while dealing with brain tumour

Baseball players' union head Michael Weiner is undergoing treatment for a brain tumour.

He began treatment Monday, and the union said Tuesday that treatments are expected to last about one month. The union also anticipates he will continue to work from its New York office on a daily basis during the treatments.

Weiner, 50, succeeded Donald Fehr in 2009 to become just the fourth head of the union since 1966.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hockey. Ex-NHL bruiser Laraque named head of CHL players' union

Georges Laraque has been hired as executive director of the fledgling Canadian Hockey League Players' Association.

The former NHL tough guy announced on his Twitter account that he was "proud" to accept the role Tuesday.

Specific details about how the CHLPA — which would represent major junior players in Canada — will function have yet to be formally announced.

CHL president Dave Branch told The Canadian Press on Tuesday night that he had yet to be contacted by a union representative.

Laraque spent three years in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League before moving on to an NHL career that spanned 695 games and ended in 2010.

Georges Laraque
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile sports

The first African team to play in the Little League World Series will not head home empty handed. Ugandan team Lugazi eked out a 3-2 win over Gresham, Ore., in a consolation game on Tuesday to improve its series record to 1-2. Scan the code for the story.

Check used Nitro for transmission issues

Second Gear.
2007 to 2011
Dodge Nitro

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nitro brought Dodge's presence to the utility vehicle scene occupied by models like the Nissan Rogue and Hyundai Santa Fe.

Driver-selectable four-wheel drive, plenty of ground clearance and a solid rear axle made this a family-ready ute that could handle towing and off-road use with ease.

Trim levels started with SE for a 'basic' Nitro, with SXT, SLT and R/T filling the model range from less to more loaded.

Common Issues

Be sure to "feel" for any signs of transmission slippage or a "shudder" at lower speeds and under light loads — which could indicate a problem with the transmission or torque converter, or the computer that controls them. If the transmission exhibits any of these symptoms, be sure to have it checked. Some owners have reported transmission or torque converter replacement under warranty.

Have a mechanic inspect your candidate for signs of oil leakage — particularly around the rear of the oil pan, and at the rear differential. Be sure any leaks are remedied ahead of your purchase.

Engine

Power came from a 3.7-litre, 210-horsepower V6, or a 4-litre V6 with up to 260 horsepower. Manual and automatic transmissions were available.

What Owners Like

Nitro owners rate ride, handling, flexibility, confidence, and all-season traction highly. The upgraded stereo is well liked, as is the styling and overall "bang for the buck" where feature content is concerned.

What Owners Dislike

Common complaints include limited footwell space, limited headroom for taller drivers, and a long reach for the gear shifter.

Verdict

Styling, driving dynamics and a high degree of capability and utility are the largest draws to the Nitro as a used buy. Seek the advice and approval of a trained Dodge mechanic ahead of your purchase.

AVIC puts smartphone functionality in your dashboard

Product review.
Pioneer AVIC Z140BH

The smartphone is today's go-to device for one-touch access to multimedia, contacts, information, entertainment and directions. Incidentally, they're illegal to use while you drive — despite how rapidly advanced connectivity is becoming a part of the modern motoring experience.

Automakers have responded with ever-improving "infotainment" systems in their latest models that seek to provide easy access to many connectivity features — though Pioneer has been proving for years that one needn't buy a new ride to benefit from them.

Pioneer's line of AVIC 'all- in-one' head-units offer top-line functionality for drivers using almost any ride as a personal listening space, a mobile office, or anything in between. The new AVIC Z140BH is hitting shelves now — and your writer recently took one for a test-drive.

It was an intimidating proposition, at first. The AVIC is the market's leading high-tech, in-car entertainment and communications hub, and I have a level of tech-savviness that would make Mark Saltzman nauseous.

But the AVIC is designed to mimic the functionality of a smartphone, like my Android-based Motorola Razr. There are numerous similarities.

Like my phone, the AVIC uses a few "fixed" buttons to reduce distraction and ease navigation, in conjunction with a colourful sliding, animated, touch-activated interface. Just like on your favourite smartphone, directions, contacts, music and other information is always a tap or swipe away. You can even drag and drop custom shortcut items onto your AVIC's home menu for easy access.

The AVIC sweeps smoothly between navigation, radio tuner, Bluetooth playback and other functions — thanks partly to a built-in graphics accelerator. Pairing the Z140BH with my Motorola Razr handset via Bluetooth was easy, and aside from a handful of split-second lags, the entire thing ran liquid smooth.

Oh, and the giant touch-screen folds out of the way to accept a CD, if you're still listening to those. The tested AVIC unit looked great both in action and while turned off — thanks to a professional install.

Mike Kalicki recently had the unit fitted to his Ford F-350 using Future Shop's Connect Pro service.

"They're easy to work with," he mentions. "I just set up an appointment, told them what kind of truck I have, and they had everything ready when I got there."

Contact your favourite electronics retailer or installer to make sure the AVIC will fit in your ride.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

DRIVE

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

Driver training best left to non-parents

Autopilot

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

You can never start not listening to your father too early. Amelia Goetz, around 1 1/2 years old, behind the wheel of her father's Jaguar and not looking at all where she's driving. CONTRIBUTED

Sixteen candles light up Amelia's birthday cake. They also produce an invisible cloud of angst, which settles nicely in her father's psyche.

Looming directly ahead: The Year Amelia Learns to Drive.

The father is an automotive journalist, and more than familiar with the statistics, which show teenage drivers are particularly good at crashing.

Young people like to travel in packs. Net result: A motor vehicle accident is the leading cause of death for people 15-24 years of age (Statistics Canada). That group had 2,247 total deaths in 2007 — 703 were due to motor vehicle accidents.

His line of business has also made him ruminate quite a bit on how one should go about driving a motor vehicle. Family members have even mentioned, on several occasions, that he might ruminate about such matters a bit too much. So he wonders if he might be too harsh a critic for a burgeoning driver, and for one he is already holding his breath for…

He also understands that maybe he knows the student too well. He cannot forget, for instance, all the absent-minded manoeuvres and poor decision-making she displayed when she was four.

The father also remembers how he was taught to drive by his own father — a generally successful endeavour, punctuated by a memorable blow-up that made suppers awkward for several weeks later, until respective tempers cooled down. The student at the time always thought that a professional instructor would not have gotten quite that angry at him for "almost" driving into a big fence post. (Though time has seen that student sympathize a bit more with his old man, and that man's feelings for his prized, brand-new 1973 Plymouth Fury II.)

All this made the current father wonder if he was the right man for the job.

It was always the family's plan to get Amelia into a professional driving course at some point. What harm would it do, for the father to first teach her some basics?

So when Amelia recently obtained her beginner's licence (known as G1 in Ontario), and requested a first lesson from her father, the father said "OK."

While Amelia meandered around the Loblaws' parking lot somewhat inconsistently, the father forced himself to be especially calm, encouraging, and instructive. He took solace in the fact that this particular student always came through in the end, always took responsibility, and could already do many clever things. He took pains not to instruct too much. He thought things went well.

Funny then, that Amelia remembers it differently. She remembers her father being too tense and nervous, too wordy, and too critical. It was an environment, she says, not at all conducive to learning a difficult task.

Driver training is best left to the professionals — they know their stuff, and they're not the parents.

Congratulations Martine!

The winner of Toyota's Pick Your Prius contest is Martine Bell. She picked the car that suited her family best: the original Prius!

prius v prius prius c

metro There's a Prius for everyone. Find yours at priusforeveryone.ca

TOYOTA make things better

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you look at the big picture today while leaving the details to other people, you will come unstuck. One detail in particular, if neglected, could cause you all sorts of problems, especially at work.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You may be generous by nature but there are times when you need to do less for others and more for yourself, and this is one of them. What is it you most desire? Go out and get it today.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The Sun's move into one of the more emotional areas of your chart will show you how you have been neglecting family and loved ones. It's not too late to do something about it but start now.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you are bored with the same old places and the same old faces, why not get up and get on the move? If you think about it, there is nothing to hold you back — though that won't stop some people from trying.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun moves into the money area of your chart today, so you need to pay attention to your spending habits. If you have been living beyond your means then cutbacks have to be made. No, not later — right now!

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A new solar year begins today and already you can sense that it will be a special one. Never mind about all those promises you made and never lived up to — dare to dream and your dreams will come true.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may not have achieved as much as you wanted to by this stage of the year but don't feel bad about it because there is still time to make a difference. You have so much to look forward to, so smile.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Anyone who thinks you are too cautious will be surprised by the things you get up to over the next few days. You have the planets' permission to, if not break the rules exactly, to at least bend them a little.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You won't be content with minor victories today — you want to show the world that you are the best at what you do. Ambition is a wonderful thing, but do you have self-knowledge to go with it?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The Sun's move into your fellow Earth sign of Virgo marks the start of a four-week phase when most things will go right for you. Does that mean you should take a few more chances? Yes it does.

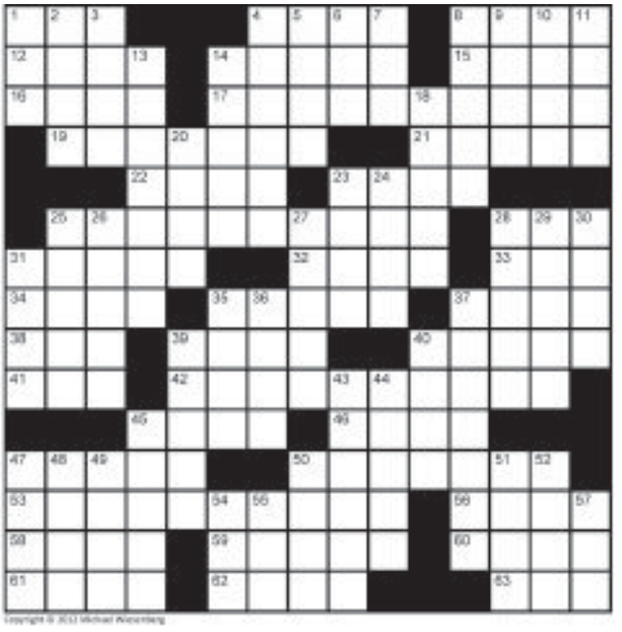
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
As an Aquarian you are used to the ups and downs of life but even you need a safe and stable place to rest once in a while. If you haven't got such a place you need to start making one now.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun in Virgo over the next few weeks will bring partnership issues to a head and that's good. There can be no more running away from your emotions — you have got to share your feelings with the world.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Famous Canadians

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. ___ Paulo, Brazil
4. Altar end of a church
8. Operatic solo
12. A tbsp. contains three
14. Snooped
15. Throw away
16. Perhaps the most common word heard in early Beatles songs
17. Sudbury, Ontario-born *Jeopardy!* host (2 wds.)
19. Applauded
21. Lets up
22. Come ___ end: conclude (2 wds.)
23. Ball-shaped cheese
25. Art ___: Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan-born *House Party* and *People Are Funny* host
28. "Do ___ say!" (2 wds.)
31. Indian currency
32. 10 million of them equal a joule
33. Capt.'s subordinates
34. Hertz Rent-___-___
35. 640 make 1 square mile
37. Toronto-born classical pianist Gould
38. "Just a___": little bit
39. Cupid
40. Icy precipitation
41. Snake warning
42. Ottawa-born star of *The Blues Brothers* and *Ghostbusters* (2 wds.)
45. 2:1 or 3:1
46. Consumes
47. "See if ___!" (2 wds)
50. Lightweight umbrella
53. Montréal-based 2011 Juno Album of the Year winning group (2 wds)
56. A Great Lake
58. After-dinner candy
59. John ___: first American to orbit the earth and, later, Ohio senator
60. Alta. neighbor
61. Something in one's bonnet, maybe (2 wds.)
62. Rowboat equipment
63. Fall behind

Down
1. Pig pen
2. "Be with you in ___!" (2 wds)
3. Australia's gemstone
4. Garfield's feline girlfriend
5. "The ___ Piper of Hamelin"
6. Gender
7. Summer time in Ont.
8. The ___: series starring Mr. T (2 wds.)
9. Burglarizes
10. "Mmm-hmm" (2 wds.)
11. Requests
13. Montréal-born *Star Trek* star
14. Concerning the Vatican
18. Raises
20. Jab
23. To be: Fr.
24. Grads get them: abbr.
25. George who created *Star Wars*
26. Apple tablet computers
27. ___ firma: ground beneath one's feet
28. Common trashcan site
29. Horse
30. "It ___ your concern": "None of your business"
31. "Drat!"
35. *Diary of* ___ *Housewife* (2 wds.)
36. Jailbirds
37. ___ over: examines perfunctorily
39. Appended
40. Spanish equivalent of mlle.
43. Aches (for)
44. Actress Black or Allen
45. Speechify
47. "___ Rock": Simon and Garfunkel hit
48. Baby's bed
49. Teenager's problem
50. Fishing site
51. Spoken
52. Bart Simpson's sister
54. Megalomaniacal feature
55. Tampa's state: abbr.
57. Heart measure, for short

Yesterday's Crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

6								7
	3	2				9	1	
			5	3	9			
		4	6	8	5	1		
2	5						8	6
		6	4	2	7	5		
			2	9	1			
	7	3				6	2	
1								9

Yesterday's Sudoku

Sharability

easy hard

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